

**CLEARWATER TOWNSHIP  
WRIGHT COUNTY  
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-1  
AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH EXCESSIVE NOISE RESTRICTIONS**

The Clearwater Township Board does hereby ordain as follows:

**SECTION 1. Regulation of Excessive Noise.** The purpose of this is to establish regulations to control excessive noise levels to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Clearwater Township and to prevent nuisances.

**1. Definitions**

For the purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

- (a) "Noise" means sound that is loud, unpleasant, or disruptive.
- (b) "Excessive Noise" means any sound that exceeds the maximum permissible noise levels established in this ordinance or which would unreasonably annoy a reasonable person.
- (c) "Motor vehicle" means any self-propelled vehicle not operated exclusively upon railroad tracks.
- (d) "Residential Areas" means areas within the following zoning districts and property types: Agricultural (AG). Rural Residential (RR), Residential Large Lot (RL). Residential (R1), PUD (Planned Unit Development) that has any residential nature as part of the development's underlying use.
- (e) Public Parks, all public property, all public roads.
- (f) "Commercial Areas" means areas designated for commercial use under applicable zoning ordinances.
- (g) "Industrial Areas" means areas designated for industrial use under applicable zoning ordinances.

**2. Maximum Permissible Noise Levels**

- (a) Daytime Noise Levels (7:00 AM to 10:00 PM)
  - Residential Areas: 65 dBA for noises exceeding six minutes of the hour or 60 dBA for noises exceeding thirty minutes of the hour.
  - Commercial Areas: 70 dBA for noises exceeding six minutes of the hour or 65 dBA for noises exceeding thirty minutes of the hour.
  - Industrial Areas: 80 dBA for noises exceeding six minutes of the hour or 75 dBA for noises exceeding thirty minutes of the hour.

(b) Nighttime Noise Levels (10:00 PM to 7:00 AM)

- Residential Areas: 55 dBA for noises exceeding six minutes of the hour or 50 dBA for noises exceeding thirty minutes of the hour.
- Commercial Areas: 70 dBA for noises exceeding six minutes of the hour or 65 dBA for noises exceeding thirty minutes of the hour.
- Industrial Areas: 80 dBA for noises exceeding six minutes of the hour or 75 dBA for noises exceeding thirty minutes of the hour.

**3. Method of Measurement**

This section is applicable only to the maximum permissible noise levels set forth in Section 1, paragraph 2 above.

A decibel meter that is calibrated within 365 days of the date of the measurement to determine the noise level is to be measured at the property line whereupon the noise is being generated. Any noise measured to exceed the noise levels constitutes an excessive noise in violation of this ordinance.

**4. Prohibited Noises**

- (a) No person shall exceed the maximum permissible noise levels as set forth in this ordinance.
- (b) No person shall discharge into the open air of the exhaust of any vehicle except through a muffler or other similar device which is free of holes, cracks or other defects, which will effectively prevent loud or explosive noises therefrom.
- (c) No person shall operate any outdoor power implement, including, but not limited to, power lawn mowers, snow blowers, leaf blowers, weed trimmers, parking lot sweepers, power hedge clippers or such other implements designed primarily for outdoor use, at any time other than between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. on weekdays and 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. on weekends and holidays.
- (d) No person shall make or create any Excessive Noise which would unreasonably annoy a reasonable person.

**5. Exemptions**

This section will not apply to the following excessive noises:

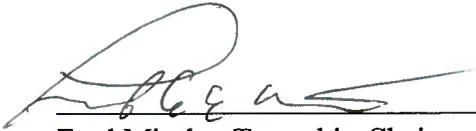
- (a) Amplifying equipment used in connection with activities which are authorized, sponsored, or permitted by Clearwater Township so long as the activity is conducted pursuant to the conditions of the license, permit, or contract authorizing such activity.
- (b) Church bells, chimes, or carillons.
- (c) School bells.
- (d) Anti-theft devices.
- (e) Machines or devices for the production of sound on or in authorized emergency vehicles.
- (f) Noise created exclusively in the performance of emergency work to preserve the public health, safety or welfare, or in the performance of emergency work necessary to restore a public service or eliminate a public hazard, including emergency street and utility repairs and cleaning. This shall include equipment, but is not limited to, pile drivers, jackhammers, cranes, scrapers, dump trucks, backhoes, bulldozers, jet trucks, tractor trucks and other construction equipment.
- (g) Noise created by the use of emergency generators during emergency repairs or time periods when utility power is not available. This shall include, but not limited to, the following equipment: stationery and portable generators utilized in the performance of providing services to the township.
- (h) Noise created by emergency sirens that are operated by a governmental entity, law enforcement or ambulances.
- (i) Noise created by the required testing of emergency generators or sirens.
- (j) Noise created by road construction and repair equipment used by contractors hired by the Township or by Township personnel when constructing, repairing or maintaining Township roads.

**SECTION 2.** Violation. Each violation of this ordinance shall be deemed a misdemeanor for which the perpetrator may be prosecuted. In the event of a successful prosecution, then the prosecution costs may be added to any fines or penalties imposed by the Court, all as provided by statute. The maximum penalty shall be the same as the maximum penalty provided by Minnesota law for misdemeanor violations.

**SECTION 3. Separability.** Every section, provision or part of this ordinance is declared separable from every other section, provision or part; and if any section, provision or part thereof shall be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, it shall not affect any other section, provision, or part.

**SECTION 4.** Effective date. This ordinance shall be effective upon its passage and publication in accordance with law.

Approved this 14 day of January, 2026.



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Fred Mische, Township Chair



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Jean Just Township Clerk